

THE JEWISH GAILY

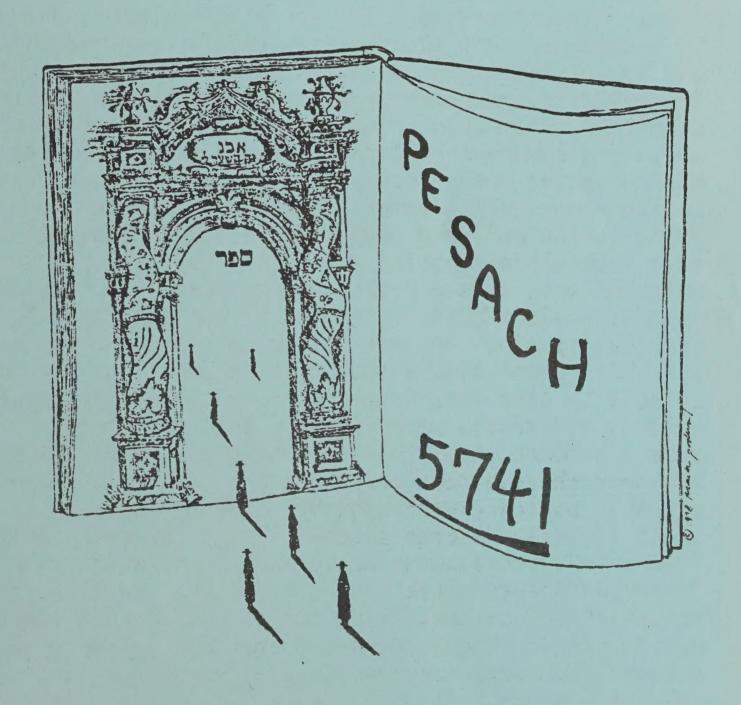
FORWARD

APRIL 1981

שער זהכ

ADARII / NISAN 5741

CONGREGATION SHA'AR ZAHAV



Co-Leader Connection

Well, Sha'ar Zahavniks, once again your male coleader reports on the progess of your favorite synagogue. It's even nicer to report that we're not just whistling Dixie when we use the word "progress" to describe what is going on at Sha'ar Zahav.

As a member or observer of every Va'ad since the congregation was founded, it is a real joy to observe the way the Va'ad has learned to work together. Va'ad meetings still tend to be long and somewhat tedious, however, this year the reason is that so many action items are being presented to the Va'ad that it takes considerable time to take care of the congregation's business. Mindful of the fact that there is still room for improvement, the Va'ad is working with a member of our synagogue in a process study to identify specific ways in which the Va'ad can better its performance. Broader structural improvements are being proposed by the Bylaws Revision Committee, which has worked extremely diligently to prepare a comprehensive proposal for constitutional change at the April special meeting of the congregation.

The synagogue's search for a new home is proceeding rapidly. The Building Committee is developing, with help from professionals, a list of available properties which will be suitable to the congregation's considerations. While the final results of our fund raising feasibility study are not yet in, preliminary indications are VERY optomistic. Although it doesn't look like we'll be able to take over Grace Cathedral (suitably refurbished, ofcourse), we definitely will be able to afford something much nicer than an aboandoned Fotomat booth! The congregation can look forward to having its own building within the foreseeable future (at last!).

It is also pleasant to report that our membership figure look great and that we expect to wind up our finanacial year in the black. Ofcourse, I will be ecstatic if I can report at the end of my term that our membership has doubled and that our treasury is overwhelmed with donations! Keep those checks and members coming, folks!

As co-leader, I have been working with Cheryl Orvis, Chair of our Outreach Committee, to revitalize our social action program. As you may have read in last month's Forward, the committee is writing hundreds of

synagogues and other orgaizations to offer speakers from Sha'ar Zahav on a variety of topics. For the last several weeks I have been representing Sha'ar Zahav at the organizational meetings of a new Coalition for Human Rights, which is gathering a broad-based, unified front to respond to the threat represented by the ultra-rightists and the alleged-Christians. Until now there has been virtual unanimity within the Coalition for action to obstruct a proposed anti-gay radio and television advertising campaign, as well as for developing an offensive strategy to deal with the ultras, rather than waiting, as in the past, to react to their attacks. Sha'ar Zahav is taking outreach initiatives in other areas as well, such as improving coverage of the synagogue's activities in the Jewish Bulletin.

The foregoing summary barely begins to describe all the activity in our synagogue. Space simply doesn't permit an account of all the projects and programs underway. Sha'ar Zahav has truly become a multi-faceted organization with something to interest anyone in our community. If you are currently not an active member, or if you have not yet joined Sha'ar Zahav, I hope that you will find a new sense of pride in our progress. We hope that you will take part in this forward-looking synagogue by becoming an active member. We are only as successful as your participation makes us!



No 150 Briefly From Bryan

This is the most difficult column I've written thus far

as your Editor of the Gaily Forward.

After an extensive period of soul-searching I've made the choice not to seek reelection to the Va'ad, nor will I continue to serve as Editor and Chair of the Newsletter Committee past the expiration of my term on July 1, 1981.

My choice is strictly personal in nature.

During the past year as your Editor and Va'ad member I have grown personally beyond my own expectations. The Gaily Forward has become a journal in which we can all take great pride. To have been a part of this transformation has filled me with gratitude.

When I accepted my positions with our synagogue I made a committment that I would serve and fulfill my duties for the period of one year. I believe in the practice of living up to my committments because it satisfies me. I also believe

that service is to be shared.

What we as a synagogue must continually strive for is the stimulation necessary to encourage our non-involved members to participate.

I will acknowledge everyone who has made the Forward a real journal of quality in my last column as Editor which will appear in the July issue.

Speaking of acknowledgments and service, I want to say that the time, the thought, the care, and the detailed work that went into the proposed By-Laws revision by the By-Laws Review Committee is an effort worth applauding! I'm convinced that the proposed changes in the By-Laws structure is exactly what is needed now as our synagogue expands.

I also want to acknowledge the Rabbinic Review Committee for all their efforts to present an objective appraisal questionaire. I've heard that the response to the question-aire has been over fifty percent. That's real participation! These two committees alone prove that we have a syna-

gogue that works!



Mau Bryan Taylor, Editor

At least we know that in this day of ultra-Rightwing religious and secular revival, there is more than one way to oppress people. Utterances from "non-conservatives" are ranging from brutal deprecation of the President to near hysteria and paranoia. They seem to be, for the most part, reactions in kindto the verbalized musings of the

reactionary right, and of equal calibre.

One dragon, long thought extinct, slain in the mid-South decades ago, is once again rearing it's head, much to the rear shock of a lot of people. I refer to the latest challenge in our educational system, through which attempts are being made (through the courts, yet!) to teach the Biblical story of creation as scientific truth. Those who would reintroduce this subject in the schools what to do it under the name of Scientific Creationism. Its supporters are the Moral Majority types, but there are others who support this as well, who won't touch the Moral Majority.

It is only a part of the "Moral Majority" in that it is being pushed by fundamentalist groups in an effort to return us to "Biblical values." But it is tangential to the "M. & M.'s" because many of its spokespersons are trained scientists with advanced degrees in various disciplines, who present their theory as science and not as religion.

"Scientific Creationists" believe that accounts of creation in Genesis (both versions as well as the flood story) are scientific accounts of the beginnings of the universe. They set about substantiating their theory by presenting evidence from a variety of sources -- gaps in the theory of evolution, questionings of scientists (often long dead) about aspects of evolution, as well as their own "scientifically" substantiated data.

Their primary efforts are aimed at the schools, on both the state and local levels. On the former level, they try to get legislation requiring that schools teach creationism as an equally acceptable theory as evolution. They have also produced textbook material, which is, ofcouse, for

sale to the school system.

On a local level the attempt to influence school boards to require the teaching of creationism along side evolution, as a viable alternative. They have a well-prepared, scientific sounding presentation, which they give to any audience willing to listen, questioning the evidence supporting evolution and "documenting" that their theory is equally as

plausible. They also attack evolution as "philosophy" and declare that Scientific Creationism is an equally plausible "philosophy." Their own textbooks are in two editions—one for Christian schools and one for public schools. The latter do not mention God or the Bible, and appear to be strictly "science."

This group is difficult to counter for a couple of reasons: (1) The question of separation of church and state is not always clear since they often do not mention God or their theological basis in what they say publicly. To get this hidden aspect of their program, one has to ask about their premises and whether they support tenants of the Creation Research Society. On the other hand, if the person presenting the theory is obviously a fundamentalist, the church - state issue is right there.

(2) Unless they can be refuted immediately by knowledgable persons in the audience who can bring into the open their scientific shortcomings, they can, and often do,

perform a snow job on their audiences.

I bring this all to your attention because it is important to realize that these are the same persons whose love of "Biblical values" is presenting a current threat to our lives and security. These are the self-same people who wish to come into San Francisco to "save us."

These people must be countered in three ways: first, on the church-state issue. They may be attempting to introduce sectarian religous teachings into our schools with this "creationalism." That is unconstitutional and illegal; second, since their theology is not acceptable to main line Protestantism, there are theologians and seminary professors who are ready to step forward to refute them when called upon; third, since we know that their "science" is faulty, we know that we can find respectable people in the scientific community who will speak up as well.

Since the issue is in the courts currently in California, we may have the privilege of seeing this drama unfold all over again, just as it did decades ago in Tennessee. I am not worried that the "creationists" will; that is not likely. But I am disturbed that they have their act together enough to even get this issue into court.

For the moment it appears that things will resolve themselves satisfactorily. My concern is about where they will come from next, and ready we will be for them next time.

HAGGADAH AND HISTORY

A compendium compiled by Professor Yosef Hayim Yerushalmi reflects the impact of art, technical progress, and linguistic changes of Jewish life over five centuries. The work spans the period from before the expulsion from Spain to contemporary America and Israel. It embodies the Ladino, Oriental, Italian, Greek, Yiddish, American, and Israeli traditions. It is a mirror of Jewish life and activity that focuses on an everchanging and very much alive institution. The Passover Seder is the one great liturgical celebration entrusted not to public worship but to the intimacy of the home. The Haggadah is a book for philosophers and for folk. Over 3,500 extant editions have been catalogued thus far. It has been published by every Hebrew press in the world and translated into every language spoken by Jews throughout their global dispersion. In the realm of books such a long career for a single work is a remarkable phenomenon. True the Haggadah is a relatively small book and is easy to print, however it subject to the stains of spilled wine and the hands of inquisitive children which creates a need for new copies. The central fact is the clear and extraordinary hold that the Passover holiday has over the Jewsih people. The Seder is celebrated not only by Jews committed to the religious tradition but across the spectrum of religious moderism, among secularists of every stripe and even alienated Jews whose knowledge of Judaism has atropied to that of the fourth son in the Haggadah. "who knows not what to ask."

It is nothing less that the Jewish experience and conception of history that is celebrated at Passover, in an orchestration of symbol, ritual, and recital for which the Haggadah provides the score. Haggadah is the book of rememberance and redemption. Here the memory of the nation is annually revived and replenished, and the collective

hope sustained.

The Seder participant is adjured to regard him/herself "as though him/herself had emerged from Egypt," and in this phrase lies the power of the Haggadah to move the hearts of Jews. Every oppressor is Pharoah. On this night all Jews throughout all generations are linked together around the table, across millenia, economic status, and sexual orientation.

The following Editorial Policy was approved at the March 8, 1981 Va'ad Meeting.

EDITORIAL POLICY

The <u>Jewish Gaily Forward</u> is the official publication of Congregation Sha'ar Zahav. It is also a major public relations and publicity vehicle. It therefore must strive to present a positive image of the congregation in an intelligent and informative manner reflecting our activities, concerns, and highest aspirations.

To this end the following editorial policy has been estab-

lished:

Subject matter of articles submitted to the <u>Forward will</u> pertain to activities, concerns, and aspirations of the congregation as stated in our constitution.

Statements of personal opinion must be submitted to the edito

for consideration.

Space and other considerations require that we edit as deemed appropriate.

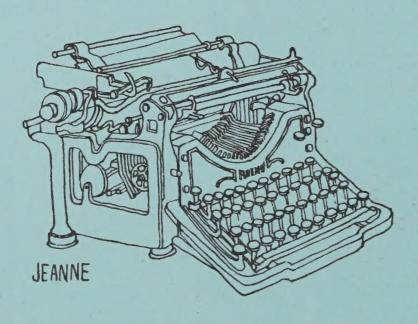
All material must be received by the deadline date to be

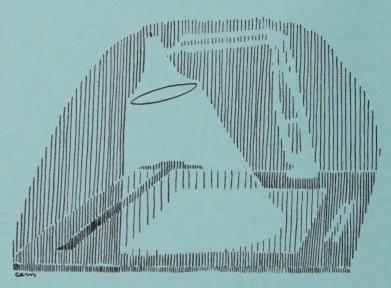
considered for publication.

We encourage our entire readership to submit material for

publication.

We hereby propose this editorial policy for approval by the Va'ad at the March 8, 1981 meeting. - Bryan Taylor, Chair Newsletter Committee







Title page for the passage ha lahma anya. Right and left margins: David and Goliath.

Bottom: The judgment of Solomon · From the Prague Haggadah, 1526

Va'ad Briefing

At the March 8 Va'ad Meeting the By-Laws Review Committee presented their proposed changes in the current By-Laws structure. The presentation was in depth and numerous questions were answered. The Va'ad voted to approve the proposed By-Laws revision for a vote by the entire membership at a forthcoming Congregational Meeting. It is also being suggested that instead of a special Congregational Meeting, the By-Laws revision can be handled my mail ballot for approval by the membership.

Our Treasurer's Report was prosperous. We are redeposit-

ing our funds for a much higher interest rate.

The Va'ad thanked Marc Lipschutz for accepting the new

position of Financial Secretary.

We are receiving good ethical service from our professional fundraiser, reports the Finance Committee. The building fundraising feasability study is make positive progress.

The synagogue is planning a theatre outing within the near future. Also being considered is Gay Jewish Bingo! The Oneg Committee reports that their budget will break

The Oneg Committee reports that their budget will break even. A coctail party to raise money to acquire real dishes, instead of using paper plates at onegs, was announced for March 18. Seder tickets are selling well, and the Oneg Committee has established a separate bank account to handle only Seder funds.

The Rabbi Evaluation Committee said that the response to their evaluation questionaire has been excellent. Confidentiality is being strictly maintained. The Va'ad thanked the

committee for its efforts.

Our Education Committee has designated May as the month of Jewish films. Brandeis University has made available a series of Yiddish films with English subtitles. The films should have wide community appeal. The series of films will be shown free to synagogue members, and \$1.00 for non-members.

The Outreach Committee said that thus far over 150 letters offering Sha'ar Zahav speakers and programs have been sent out. The March on Sacramento for Gay and Lesbian Rights is still being co-ordinated. It will possibly take place in May. A coalition of leaders of the gay and lesbian community are drafting a letter to the media expressing our concern about the fairness doctrine in the broadcast media in relation to the propaganda from the Moral Majority.

We now have 144 members, said the Membership Committee. The committee is working on a form of membership for those persons not residing in the Bay Area. The entire committee is busy obtaining repledges. Four new members were voted in by the Va'ad.

The Treasurer is asking all committees to work out their

respective budgets for the coming fiscal year.

Our Publicity Committee is actively preparing membership brochures. The Va'ad approved graphic art expenditures of up to \$150.00.

We thanked Ron Moskowitz for the use of his home for the

March Va'ad Meeting.



THANKS FROM THE BY-LAWS REVIEW COMMITTEE

The By-Laws Review Committee wishes to thank the entire congregation for allowing us the opportunity to serve you.

We extend our grateful thanks to everyone who offered suggestions, wisdom, and experience to assist us in this undertaking.

We believe in the proposed revision of our By-laws to better serve the changing needs of our growing synagogue.

It is our hope that you will approve them.

With deep thanks,

Cheryl Orvis
Michael Friedland
Leila Raim
Ellis Jacobs
Cathy Nelson
David Gass

Bits & Pieces

SEATTLE HAS A NAME!

Seattle's Gay Synagogue, which was born during the past Chanukah holiday, now has a name! It's Congregation Tikyah Chadashah.

The Congregation is off to a busy start and is soon planning to establish a Board of Directors. Their current referral number is (206) 325-1872.

To our Seattle readers we urge you to GET INVOLVED!

Contact: Congregation Tikvah Chadashah

P.O. Box 2731 Seattle, WA 98111

BIRTHDAY MOVIE

Everyone is welcome to the screening of "La Cage Aux Folles II" on Saturday, April 4, at 2:00 P.M., Regency I Theatre, Sutter and Van Ness, San Francisco, to celebrate Linda's birthday. Please join us a half hour before the screening time. Naturally, we'll do a bit of celebrating afterwards also. For more information, please call 863-4163 or leave a message at 626-3941.

WOMEN'S CHEMICAL DEPENDENCY PROGRAM

You can live chemically free! Find out how by contacting the Women's Chemical Dependency Program at Pacific Center, Berkeley. The groups are small in numbers and met on Tuesday evenings from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. The Program offers the space to share life experiences, to learn about stress management, relaxation, and outside support systems. For further information contact Randi Hepner at 841-4776, ext. 25, or at 849-0836.

CARAVANS IN THE SINAL DESERT



CANAANITES GOING FROM CANAAN TO EGYPT

Congregational Seder

SECOND NIGHT: SUNDAY, APRIL 19

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav will be hosting a traditional seder on the second night of Pesach, Sunday, April 19, at the Golden Gateway Holiday Inn, Pine and Van Ness, San Francisco. Ticket prices are: \$20 for members, \$23 for non-members, \$25 for sponsors, and \$10 for persons age 16 or under. A reservation form is included in the center



Family Seders

FIRST NIGHT: SATURDAY, APRIL 18

In addition to Sha'ar Zahav's traditional congregational seder (on the second night of Pesach, Sunday, April 19), members and non-members of the shul are invited to have small family-style seders in individual homes on the first night of Pesach, Saturday, April 18. If you are interested in hosting or attending and helping with a small (4 to 10 persons) seder in a home, please fill out the form in the center of this issue. Please mail the form early.

You will be notified (about April 10) by mail who will be in your seder family. It will then be the responsibility of the seder co-ordinator for the group to organize the

seder among the group members.

6th International Conference --Alive and Well in Philly!

PLAN TO ATTEND THE SIXTH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE NOW!

Plan to attend the 6th International Conference of Gay and

Lesbian Jews! Make your travel plans NOW!

The Conference is being held July 2 - 5, 1981 at the Holiday Inn, Independence Mall, Philadelphia. Sha'ar Zahav has reserved a block of seats on a World Airways flight to Newark. We have also arranged for a bus to take conferees into Philadelphia and back to the Newark Airport for the return flight.

The flight schedule is as follows:

DEPART

8:20A.M. Wed. 7/1-Oakland Newark 4:20P.M.

8:35P.M. Sun. 7/5-Newark Oakland 12:30A.M.

You can adjust this itinerary to your own needs if you wish

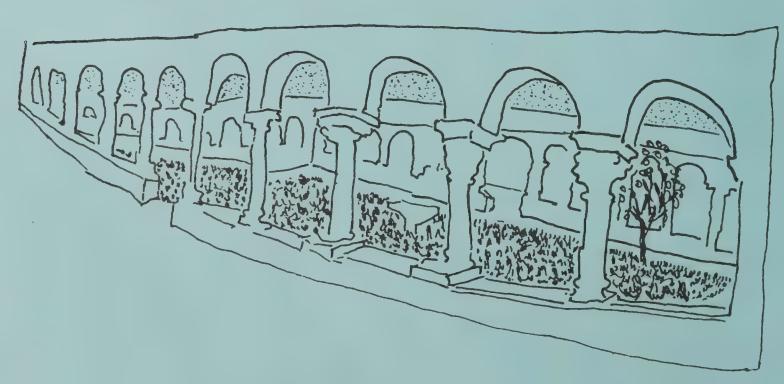
ARRIVE

to stay longer on the East Coast.

This is by far the most economical way to travel to the Conference. The roundtrip air fare is \$302. The cost for the bus will depend on the number of occupants. ference.

Our travel agent advises us that this flight must be confirmed immediately. We ask that you contact her directly to reserve your seats. Call Lauren Meshel at The Travel People, 421-2930. Please tell her that you are with Sha'ar Zahav, and wish to go to the Conference. She will handle it.

DON'T DELAY!! DO IT TODAY!!



Information and Resource Group on Gay Male Parenting

An eight-session resource and support group is being formed for gay male couples who are interested in raising children.

This group is intended primarily for those couples who are clear in their desire to adopt and raise children. We will not act as a therapy group for problem solving or conflict resolution.

For approximately five of the eight sessions, invited speakers will address the group on a variety of issues bearing on gay male adoption. The speakers will include:

1. One or more gay male couples who have already

adopted children.

An attorney specializing in family law and

adoption.

- A representative from the county welfare depart-3. ment which evaluates the suitability of prospective parents, and makes recommendations to the Court.
- A representative from an adoption agency, to discuss the formal process involved in seeking to adopt through the agencies.

A major focus of the group will be on discussing the implications of our own relationships, our ties to friends and extended family, and the unique issues our children may face.

The sessions will be held in Berkeley on evenings convenient

for the majority of participants. For more information and to reserve a place in the sessions, please call Aaron Cooper at 549-0505.

Reaching Out...

The Speakers' Bureau and other Outreach activities are under way. The members of the Outreach Committee hope you will join them and participate in the committee. Please contact Cheryl Orvis, Outreach Committee Chair, through Sha'ar Zahav (621-2871) or at 861-8142 in the evening.



Dignity and Self-Esteem Workshops

Workshops have been organized and are now available free to all members and friends of Congregation Sha'ar Zahav. The goal of these three hour workshops will be to increase our dignity, self-esteem, and value as human beings. The workshops will focus on:

1. The traditional role of relationship building

in Judaism.

Our responsibilities as lesbians and gay men in establishing healthy role models through developing viable coupling lifestyle patterns.

3. To cultivate, and disseminate, a greater knowledge and sharing of experiences relative to the supports to and dysfunctions of relationship building along Jewish, cultural, social-

ization, and structural lines.

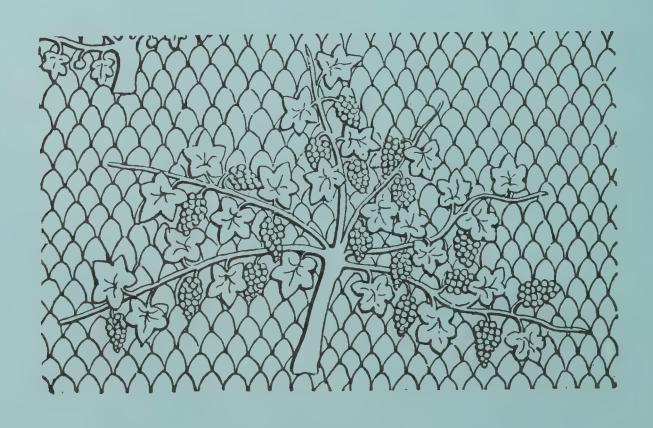
4. To create greater understanding, personal awareness, and knowledge of gay and lesbian coupling patterns in the community at large in order to facilitate and share the nature, theory, and practice of establishing stable and integrated relationships.

There will be four experiential workshops; one each for men, women, seniors, and one open.

Refreshments will be served and time for socialization

and a question and answer period will be provided.

For further information, please call Mark Resnick or David Gass at 346-7077.



Onegim

March 6: By David Brauer for the Congregation

March 13: By Al Baum for his father's 80th birthday

March 20: By Gene Maxey for Aki and the Congregation

March 27: By Jordan Lee for Mrs. Samuel Lee, his grandmother

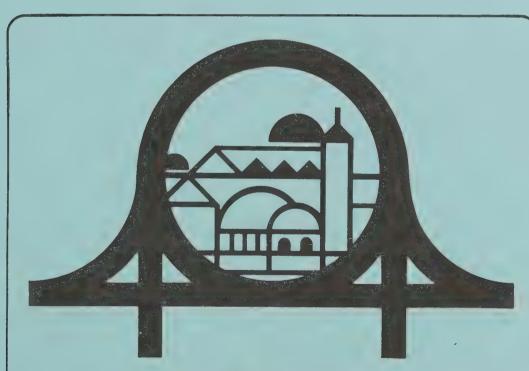
Oneg, Ltd.

SEDER UPDATE

April 13 will be the last day we are accepting Seder reservations. Make your plans now to attend. You will find the Congregation's Second night Seder form in the center of this issue of the Forward. Please!! Send your reservation form in today! Don't Delay!!

Shalom,

David Ben-Jacob, Oneg Chair



Israel Programs & Information Service

For further information on programs to Israel contact IPIS at the Bureau of Jewish Education • 751-6983

Ritual Calendar

Friday, April 3: TORAH TAZRIA

Lev. 12:1 - 13:59

Exodus 12:1-20

Haftarah

Ezekiel 45:16 - 46:18

I Samuel 20:18-42 SHABBAT HACHODESH ROSH CHODESH NISAN

Daniel Chesir & Cary Kandel,

Services

Friday, April 10: TORAH MEZORAH

Lev. 14:1 - 15:33

Haftarah

II Kings 7:3-20

Rabbi Bennett, Services

Friday, April 17: TORAH AHARE MOT

Lev, 16:1 - 18:30

Haftarah Mal. 3:4-24

SHABBAT HAGADOL

Daniel Kohansky, Services

Saturday, April 18: EREV PESACH

First Seder of Passover Sha'ar Zahav small family

Seders.

Sunday, April 19: FIRST DAY OF PASSOVER

Second evening Seder

Sha'ar Zahav Congregational Seder at the Golden Gateway

Holiday Inn, 6:00 P.M.

Friday, April 24: TORAH SPECIAL READING

Exodus 13:17 - 15:26

Numbers 28:19-25

Haftarah

II Samuel 22:1-51 CHOL HAMO'ED PESACH

Rabbi Bennett, Services

Donations

Rocco Brateman, in memory of his mother, Sylvia Brateman Jerome Nodiff
Herman Siegel, in memory of his sister, Faye Torres
Sam Thal
Gerry Rosenstein
Howard Rubenstein
Barry E. Simon
John Golebowski
Renee S. Lipschutz
Elliot Schneck
Charles H. Norton
Wyland Stanley
Dr. A.G. Beauregard Lowell IV
Richard C. Allman
Jonathan R. Stowe



Yahrzeits

Geraldine Minsky Rankin, mother of Mike Rankin, April 1 Max Pechter, father of Bernard Pechter, April 12 Wally Rifkin, brother of Hy Rifkin, April 17 Wallace A. Waldorf, grandfather of David Brauer, April 13

Birthdays

April	4
April	7
April	7
April	10
April	13
April	17
April	19
April	20
April	23
April	27
April	28
April	29
April	29
	April

CHANGE OF ADDRESS					
If you're moving, please allow six weeks for processing time.	Attach current address label here.				
NEW ADDRESS: Name Address City	StateZip Code	Mail to: Sha'ar Zahav P.O.Box 5640 S.F. CA 94101			



Address:

Work:

Phone:

Home:

If you want to attend with another person, write his or her name here and send both forms in together:

Participation:

Check all items that you would consider doing. Seder groups will be arranged so that all will share in the preparation.

Provide home in which to have seder

Number you can accommodate (including yourself) if item 1 is checked Cook seder dinner (food and other costs to be shared by all participants) Provide ritual items and food (Maror, haroset, horseradish, seder plate, matzoh cover, small gift for Afikoman finder, etc.) Call others in your seder group and be responsible for co-ordinating the seder preparation Lead service 5 9

Type of seder:

Traditional Service

Short, informal service

Kosher

Vegetarian

Other considerations: (allergies to smoke or pets, have pets in your home)

Compatible seder groups will be arranged, to the extent possible, based on the responses to this form.

MAIL TO: Family Seder Groups c/o Pete Tannen 289 States St. San Francisco CA 94114

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15	5	ABBAT 17	Shabbat 18 ha-Gadol First SMAN Seder SMAN TI	P. SEDERS UNES OMES
22 -Moed	Hol ha-Moed Pesah	HOI ha Moed Pesah		
29	30			

